

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 7th inst., for the erection of the Printers' Almshouses; by 6th, for the erection of a farmery for 700 acres of land at Eldo House, Rougham, near Bury St. Edmund's; by a date not specified, for finishing a few third-rate houses near Mornington-crescent; also for the formation of a new road, 70 feet wide, from the Royal-crescent, Notting-hill, to Warwick-square, Kensington; by 28th inst., with plans, specifications, &c., for the erection of lodgings, and accommodation for the judges of assize, at Aylesbury; by April 7th, with plans, specifications, &c., for erection of gas-works, &c., at Aylsham, Norfolk; by 12th inst., for the erection and completion of the two chapels, cloisters, catacombs, &c., at the Leicester Cemetery; by 12th, for the erection of a workhouse at Fulham; by 13th, for executing the masonry, brickwork, and other works, and also the remainder of ironwork requisite for extending the Liverpool and Bury Railway to Tithes-barn-street, Liverpool; by 19th, for the execution of the works required for the completion of the Knottingley branch of the York and North Midland Railway, a length of about three and a-quarter miles; by 19th, for the execution of the whole works necessary for the completion of the Bishop Auckland branch of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, and of the branch of same from Pensher to Sunderland, the former in two contracts of about 7½ miles each, and the latter in one contract of 7 miles in length; by 19th, for a supply of 30 fifteen-foot and 30 twelve-foot turntables for the same line; by 8th, for 200 goods trucks for the Eastern Counties; by 19th, for the supply of the various cisterns, pipes, taps, and apparatus for distributing water through the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum for paupers, and for the works connected with fitting and fixing the same; by a date not specified, for an iron tank, about 30 feet by 30 feet, and 4 or 6 feet deep, for St. John's Wood; by 10th April, for ironmongery,—by 20th inst., for crown and sheet glass and window lead,—and by same date, for iron-plate-workers' wares, all for the navy.

COMPETITIONS.—Plans, specifications, and estimates are wanted, from "architects and others," for lodgings and suitable accommodation for her Majesty's Judges of assize at Aylesbury.—Twenty pounds and ten pounds are offered for the two best designs for a corn-market at Bedford.

MASTER AND MAN.—On the 13th, at the Town-hall, Nottingham, the following case was heard before the mayor and two other magistrates. Mr. Lonsdale, plasterer, having employed a man 50 miles from Nottingham, to whitewash some ceilings at stations upon the Sheffield and Lincoln railway, refused to pay him his charge without the certificate of the foreman of the works (George Clark). This the foreman refused to give, because the man had charged for twelve days' work during two weeks, whereas he had only worked eight days. A summons being granted against Mr. Lonsdale, the foreman attended the court, to prove to the magistrates the time that the man had worked, by book, showing the number of hours each day that he had worked. The magistrates arrived at the following decision:—that when the man had been at his work any part of a day, he was entitled to a full day's wages: two days the man admitted that he was not within 20 miles of his work, these were struck out of his account,—the bench allowing him ten days, instead of twelve days, which he had summoned his master for. Mr. Lonsdale to pay the costs (1*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*).

ENGLAND IN AN AMERICAN'S EYES.—Mr. Ralph Emerson, in a lecture on England at Boston, after his recent visit, referred to the elements of that power which the English now hold, and have held for centuries. After looking at her manufactories, scattered all over the land, her commerce, her agriculture, her arts, and witnessing the stupendous results which have been wrought out, one is convinced, said he, that if he would see the best development of common sense (the standard sense), he must go to England to witness it. The land, in every part so like a garden, shewn the triumph of labour; the fields look as if finished with the pencil, and not the plough. Every arable spot has been cultivated, and everything turned to the best possible use. England, he continued, is a huge mill, a grand

hotel, where everything is provided to one's mind. On the railroads we ride twice as fast, and with one-half the shaking, that we do upon our roads. All England is a machine—everybody moves on a railway—no Englishman ever touches the ground. England has the best working climate in the world; it is never hot nor cold; their winter days are like our November days in the early part of the month. One of the few drawbacks which Mr. Emerson mentioned was the dark, dense smoke of many of the manufacturing towns, pervading and completely enveloping at times every surrounding object.

BUILDERS AND BUILDING IN LONDON.—Our forefathers built houses singly; we build whole neighbourhoods. Belgravia, together with the new Bromptonian territories; Tishurina, and a new district recently discovered by northern travellers, east of Camden Town, sprung up at once. All this has not happened and is not going on without hands, hence the Directory tells us of 406 architects, 779 builders, 431 bricklayers, 672 carpenters, 167 stone and marble masons, 66 plasterers, 400 plumbers, and 315 painters and glaziers. For the wholesale handy work of these artificers we beg to put in a plea against an imputation cast upon them by the author of "The Town," who says,—"In Elizabeth's time the London houses were still mostly of wood. We see remains of them in the Strand and Fleet-street, and in various parts of the city. They are like houses built of cards, one story projecting over the other; but unless there is something in the art of building, which may in future dispense with solidity, the modern houses will hardly be as lasting. People in the old ones could at least dance and make merry. Builders in former times did not spare their materials, nor introduce clauses in their leases against a jig. We fancy Elizabeth bearing of a builder who should introduce such a proviso against the health and merriment of her buxom subjects, and sending to him with a good round oath, to take a little less care of his purse, and more of his own neck." We have heard of such clauses, but believe they appertain to houses "run up" about the beginning of the present century, when the art of building was not so well understood as now. Although we do not deny that even some of the suburban contract-job villas are not built for eternity; nor, indeed, for perfect integrity after a severe equinox; yet the scientific researches of architects and builders into the relative ratios of the strength to the bulk of materials, and the frequent substitution of iron for wood, have enabled them to build most of the modern houses with equal stability, but with infinitely less clumsiness than their predecessors.—*Daily News.*

PYRO-PNEUMATIC STOVE GRATE.—We have several times said that the great desideratum in heating and ventilating is to get a constant supply of pure air admitted to the apartment at a proper temperature. Under the above title, Mr. Pierce, of Jermyn-street, has patented a stove-grate which proposes to supply this want. It has an open fire-place, and is lined with fire-lumps. Within these lumps are tubular air-ways, made to communicate with the external atmosphere, which, in thus passing into the apartment, is warmed without coming into contact with heated metal. The fire-clay lining makes it economical also: metallic linings are very wasteful.

PROPOSED BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES FOR THE PARISHES OF ST. MARGARET'S AND ST. JOHN'S, WESTMINSTER.—A meeting of the vestrymen of the above parishes was held on Saturday, in the vestry-room of St. Margaret's Church, for the purpose of considering the propriety of erecting baths and wash-houses. Mr. Trollope occupied the chair. The Hon. C. J. Talbot moved the appointment of commissioners under the Act 9 and 10 Vict., for encouraging baths and wash-houses. The question was opposed by Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Sugg, and warmly supported by Mr. George Wilson, Mr. Wateley, Q.C., and Mr. Freeman, and carried by a majority of ten—there being nineteen for and nine against the motion. The following gentlemen were then appointed as the commissioners for the carrying out the Act in these parishes:—The Hon. J. C. Talbot, Lieut.-Colonel Short, Rev. J. Jennings (Rector of St. John's), Mr. George Wilson, Mr. Hawes, Mr. Trollope, and Mr. Burridge.

FAIRMASSONS OF THE CHURCH.—A meeting of this society was held at 49, Great Marlborough-street, on February 13th, the Rev. George Pocock, LL.B., in the chair. Mr. J. Brown exhibited a chart illustrating the first principles of perspective, intended as a first step in perspective. It was the object in this drawing to place at one view the meaning of the terms used in this art, illustrated by such familiar examples as will render them easily understood by the young student, and place in a more simple light the mathematical rules which will afterwards be required. Mr. Pell, of Southwark, attended for the purpose of placing before the chapter a series of ornamental glass windows, manufactured by him on a patent principle, for halls, passages, and conservatories. Mr. Wilmshurst, upon this subject, offered some remarks, explaining the effect frequently obtained in windows by a very moderate use of colours, strengthening his observations by reference to examples in many continental cathedrals, and especially in that of Seville. Mr. William Smith Williams then read a paper on "The Importance of a Knowledge and Observance of the Principles of Art by Designers," to which we shall recur.

VALUE OF ESTATES.—A short time ago the estates of Lord Suffield, at Middleton and Thornham, about 5 miles from Manchester on the one side, and equally distant from Rochdale on the other, were brought to the hammer at the Palatine Hotel, Manchester. The auctioneer described the capabilities and qualities of the property; after which some bids were made, the first of which was for 100,000*l.*, by Mr. Robert Ashton, cotton manufacturer, at Hyde. Ultimately, Mr. Fisher said that there was a reserve bid of 200,000*l.* on the property, and any advance on that of 1,000*l.* would be received, but otherwise the property would be withdrawn. The required offer not being made, the sale was abandoned, and it is understood the property will be offered in small lots. The estates are freehold, comprising about 3,000 acres, including plots suitable for building purposes at Middleton, and containing also some valuable seams of coal. The property also includes the valuable advowson of the rectory of Middleton, and the manorial rights. The present average rental has been about 10,000*l.* per annum, the average rental of the land being about 34*s.* 6*d.* per acre.—*Cheltenham Journal.*

HOW LOW CONTRACTS ARE CARRIED OUT.—Sir: I have frequently been much edified by the information which you have afforded under the head "Blind Builders," and beg to offer for your use the following particulars of a job which was to have been executed for the Corporation of this city (Manchester). The work consisted of the excavation of about 9,000 yards of earthwork, the fair cost of which might probably be some 400*l.* There were about a dozen estimates tendered, varying from 11*s.* to 1,020*l.* The lowest was accepted, as is the custom in this neighbourhood. Some few "navvies" made their appearance, and slinked about as though they were arranging to begin in good earnest. This, however, proved to be a mere ruse to obtain a few weeks' credit at the beershops at which they located themselves. In order to support appearances, a few waggons were sent on the ground, but these, with the "navvies," mysteriously vanished before daybreak one fine morning, when it was found no further credit could be obtained, and neither have since been heard of. The job remains in statu quo.—O.

TO OUR READERS.

It has been suggested to us at various times that some of the best architectural subjects given in *THE BUILDER*, if printed in a superior manner on good paper, with the accompanying descriptions, plans, &c., and issued periodically, would form a work that would be acceptable not only to those who are not buyers of *THE BUILDER*, but to many who are,—the current engravings being often creased by the news-vendors, or otherwise injured. We are disposed to try the experiment, and to publish, in a neat wrapper, under the title, "BUILDINGS AND MANUSCRIPTS, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL," about Eight Plates, with eight pages of letter-press, folio size, every second month, price half-a-crown. The first part would consist of Osborne House, with plan; Bridgewater House, plan and details; Church of St. Isaac, Petersburg; Kensington Union Workhouse; Pembroke College, Oxford; the Liverpool Dock, Bank; and the north porch of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Before determining upon the scheme, however, we should be glad to receive the names of such gentlemen as would be willing to become subscribers to the work.